

Read

EVERY DAY

Read

TOGETHER

MAKE

Reading

FUN

*You are your child's first teacher. Reading is important to your child's development and his or her success in school and in life.*

## 10 WAYS TO MAKE READING FUN:

- 1** Point out words that are all around you — on cereal boxes, street signs, maps, posters, books.
- 2** Let your children choose books themselves.
- 3** Subscribe to a magazine for your child.
- 4** Read with drama — use different voices, make puppets, act out the story.
- 5** Give clues about a mystery word you are thinking about. Choose a word related to something you and your child have done together.
- 6** Make cards to play matching games — match letters and words to pictures. Play board games that include making words and reading the words on a card.
- 7** Finger-paint words or letters. Spell words with alphabet cereal. Make and bake words to eat.
- 8** Encourage relatives and friends to give books as gifts.
- 9** Play memory games — place objects on the floor, ask your child to look at them for a minute and then cover them. Ask your child to name as many items as possible.
- 10** Read all kinds of material — stories, poems, information books, magazines, newspaper articles and comics.

# BE A ROLE MODEL — LET YOUR CHILD SEE YOU **Reading**

## **Read** TOGETHER

### **Before you start...**

- Read the title of the book.
- Ask your child to use the pictures on the front and back covers to guess what the book is about.
- If you've read the book together before, ask what your child likes about it.

### **While you read...**

- Ask your child to read the part of one of the characters out loud.
- Take turns reading a page.
- Point to pictures to help your child understand the story.

### **After you're done...**

- Ask your child: Did the story remind you of something else? Do you remember when...?
- Plan to visit a place from the story or one like it.
- Ask what your child liked or didn't like about the story and the characters.
- Even once your child can read independently, keep reading together to stretch your child's understanding and share stories above his or her reading level.

## **Read** EVERY DAY

- Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.
- Try to have your child read aloud to you when there will be no interruptions.
- Reading doesn't automatically mean books — older children can enjoy reading on the Internet.
- Pack books, magazines and books-on-tape to take on trips.
- Re-read favorite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them.
- Make sure your children have access to things they like to read — some may like science fiction and fantasy, books with action and humour, magazines, comic books, sports sections in newspapers.
- Read greeting cards, letters and e-mail messages from family and friends.
- Visit the library and look at interactive CD-ROMs, as well as books.
- Give your child time to think about the story, then ask him or her about it again in a few days.

# **Reading**

## **CHOOSE BOOKS SUITED TO YOUR CHILD'S AGE AND INTERESTS**

### **Books for the pre-reader**

- Durable books in plastic, cloth or cardboard
- Books with clear, colorful pictures
- Books with few words

### **Books for the beginning reader**

- Action books, pop-up books, books made with textured materials
- Books that feature rhymes and rhythms
- Books about things that your child is interested in (animals, trucks, trains)

### **Books for the early reader**

- Books that you can read that are more challenging than their reading level
- Fun books that feature riddles, tongue twisters, rhymes or jokes
- Books that require a child to use his or her imagination (stories about different countries, legends, peoples)

Older children may enjoy choosing books for themselves.